

STUDY ON POTENTIAL OF SMALL SCALE COIR ORGANIZATIONS
OF WOMEN WORKERS IN THE SOUTH
AND SOUTH WEST COAST OF SRI LANKA

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The aim of the study was to outline a strategy of approach at village level, designed to enhance possibilities to improve the economic and social position of women coir workers in the white coconut fibre industry. The twin objectives were to raise the income levels of the workers as well as to create awareness of the need to work collectively towards their own advertisement. In the process of identification of such a strategy the exploitation experienced by groups at different levels of the industry - i.e. village level, provincial level, national level, international level-as well as its impact on the workers at the lowest level were analysed.

Data available on the coconut fibre industry in the island was analysed and literature from national and international sources on the topic studied.

A survey was undertaken of 108 villages along the Western and Southern coast of Sri Lanka in relation to the position of the coconut fibre industry and the workers involved in it.

A study was made of public and private organisations involved in the industry through proposal observations, interviews and analysis of documents.

Discussions were held with persons with knowledge and experience about the industry both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

The study culminated in the elaboration of a detailed plan of action for implementing a 3 year village level project which includes concentration leading to participatory planning, self generated organisation and management of the activities by the workers themselves.